

## CLAIMS

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1. (currently amended) A combination ring and object holder comprising:  
a ring adapted to be worn by an individual and defining a central axis;  
a spring ~~secured at~~ having a lower distal end ~~thereof~~ that is secured directly to said ring, said spring defining a central axis that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the central axis defined by said ring so that the spring can move freely relative to said ring; and  
a coupling member adapted to receive and retain an object and secured to an upper distal end of said spring.

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2. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said coupling member defines an opening to receive and retain an article of candy.

3. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a lollipop having a stick, the stick of said lollipop being received and retained in an opening defined by said coupling member.

4. (previously cancelled)

5. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said coupling member has a smooth upper surface.

6. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein

the upper distal end of said spring is threaded through a channel defined by said coupling member such that approximately one coil of the upper distal end of said spring is enclosed within said channel.

7. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said ring has a substantially flat upper surface, the lower distal end of said spring being secured to the substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

8. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 7, wherein said ring also has a substantially circular lower portion oriented substantially perpendicular to said upper surface and adapted to be worn by an individual.

9. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 8, wherein the substantially circular portion of said ring is comprised of two independent prongs.

10. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said ring is composed of plastic.

11. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a spring base plate interposed between the lower distal end of said spring and a substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

12. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 11, wherein the lower distal end of said spring is threaded through an opening defined by said spring base plate such that approximately one coil of the lower distal end of said spring is secured between said spring base plate and the substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

13. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said spring is a plastic helical spring.

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14. (currently amended) A combination ring and object holder comprising:

a ring having a substantially flat upper surface and a circular lower portion oriented substantially perpendicular to said upper surface and adapted to be worn by an individual;

a spring secured at a lower distal end thereof to the substantially flat upper surface of said ring, said spring being oriented in a substantially perpendicular relationship to the substantially flat upper surface so that the spring can move freely relative to said ring; and

a coupling member adapted to receive and retain an object and secured to an upper distal end of said spring.

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15. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 14, wherein said coupling member defines an opening to receive and retain an article of candy.

16. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim

14, and further comprising a lollipop having a stick, the stick of said lollipop being received and retained in an opening defined by said coupling member.

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17. (currently amended) A combination ring and object holder comprising:

- a ring adapted to be worn by an individual and defining a central axis;
- a spring base plate secured to a substantially flat upper surface of said ring;
- a spring secured at a lower distal end thereof directly to said spring base plate,

said spring defining a central axis that is substantially perpendicular to the central axis defined by said ring so that the spring can move freely relative to said spring base plate and said ring; and

a coupling member adapted to receive and retain an object and secured to an upper distal end of said spring.

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18. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 17, wherein the lower distal end of said spring is threaded through an opening defined by said spring base plate such that approximately one coil of said spring is secured between said spring base plate and the substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

19. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 17, wherein the coupling member defines an opening to receive and retain an article of candy.

20. (previously amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 17, and further comprising a lollipop having a stick, the stick of said lollipop being received and retained

in an opening defined by said coupling member.